

## TITLE 327 WATER POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

### LSA Document #06-573

#### SUMMARY/RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM THE SECOND COMMENT PERIOD

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) requested public comment from June 6, 2007, through July 6, 2007, on IDEM's draft rule language regarding amendments to rules concerning the application of a single sample maximum limitation of 235 most probable number (mpn) or colony forming units (cfu)/100 ml of Escherichia coli (E. Coli) bacteria to waters of the state and, specifically, with compliance with the E. coli limit in wastewater effluent. IDEM received a comment letter from the following party by the comment period deadline:

Indiana Water Environment Association (IWEA)

Following is a summary of the comments received and IDEM's responses thereto:

*Comment:* For the purposes of beach notification and closure determinations, the daily maximum water quality standard for E. coli should be retained. (IWEA)

*Response:* IDEM agrees that, for the purposes of beach notification and closure determinations, the daily maximum water quality standard for E. coli should be retained.

*Comment:* For the purpose of determining compliance with NPDES permits, IWEA supports revision of the rules to clarify how the single sample bacterial water quality standard should be applied. (IWEA)

*Response:* IDEM understands that occasional exceedances of the single sample maximum do not necessarily indicate inadequate wastewater treatment but rather reflect the limitations inherent in the process of sampling and analysis of individual bacteriological samples due to the random variations in biological systems. IDEM appreciates your support of the draft rule.

*Comment:* IWEA supports IDEM's draft rule language basing wastewater effluent limitations upon no more than ten percent (10%) of the discharge samples during a 30 day period exceeding the 235 cfu/mpn per 100 ml. (IWEA)

*Response:* IDEM appreciates your support of the draft rule, which reads as follows regarding compliance with E. coli limitations: "For demonstrating compliance with wastewater treatment requirements, sanitary wastewater dischargers shall ensure the following:

(A) The concentration of E. coli in the undiluted discharge does not exceed one hundred twenty-five (125) cfu or mpn per one hundred (100) milliliters as a geometric mean of the effluent samples taken in a calendar month.

(B) Not more than ten percent (10%) of all samples when not less than ten (10) samples are taken and analyzed for E. coli in a calendar month exceed two hundred thirty-five (235) cfu or mpn per one hundred (100) milliliters as a daily maximum. Under this clause, the calculation of ten percent (10%) of the samples taken shall be limited to the lowest whole number result."

